/18 cont./

435 Groundnuts/ which controlled the quality of the product in
438 the escales and in the ports. This office, which functioned
656 under the responsibility of the local Chambres de Commerce,
applied the norms of "the practice of Bordeaux" of 1922. In
[685] the escales the lots with impurities of more than 2% were
returned, and fines could be slapped on the sellers whose product
concealed more than 3%. A second control was established in
the ports. Since 1947 this office has been replaced by a "Service
de contrôle et du conditionnement," which inspects the product
only in the ports, thus making only the exporter responsible.
All merchandise with impurities of more than 2%, and an aver-
age of more than 4% acidity for the decorticated product, is
refused or subject to a reduction in price. Several years ago
the commercial houses acquired sieves which permit the elimi-
nation of much debris, but they are often poorly utilized, and
the groundnuts from Senegal usually have considerable debris,
stalks or other things.

438 The complications of the circuit of the groundnuts, its
656 inadequacies, have stimulated many projects of rationalization,
which for the most part recommend loose transport, stockpiling
in silos, and rigorous control over the quality. At present a
public body, the "Secteur d'expérimentation et de rationali-
sation du circuit de l'arachide" (S. E. R. C. A.) is concerned
with this, but it singularly lacks any means.

435 /19/ 3. The marketing of the groundnut and the
problem of prices. Up to the Second World War, all the trans-
actions in groundnuts were free; the prices varied considerably
as a function of supply and demand. During the war the
"Groupement national d'achat des produits oléagineux"
(G. N. A. P. O.) /National Group for the Purchase of Oleaginous
Products/ controlled the market and authoritatively fixed the
price. After the war, during the campaign of 1950-1951, the
return to freedom led to a spectacular jump in the market
price of groundnuts, which, at production, went from 18 to 30